Plutonium-based fast breeder reactor

2320. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to install country's first plutonium-based commercial fast breeder reactor in the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research Complex at Kalpakkam near Chennai;

(b) if so, the details and purpose thereof; and

(c) whether installation of the breeder reactor is likely to assist generation of additional energy resources and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal for administrative approval and project financial sanction for setting up of a 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu is under process with the Government of India.

(b) and (c) A three stage Nuclear Power Programme has been envisaged by the Department of Atomic Energy, right from its inception. With the construction of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR), the first stage of the Indian nuclear power programme has attained a level of maturity. At present, the Department proposes to launch the second stage of setting up of Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR) for power generation. This stage is based on Plutonium fuelled reactors with depleted uranium as the blanket. The PFBR will add 500 MWe of nuclear power generation capacity to the Southern Grid.

Post offices in U.P.

†2321. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the existing number of post offices in Uttar Pradesh and post offices which are being operated from rented houses; and

(b) the existing number of villages in the State where post offices may be set up as per rule and by when post offices would be set up in all such villages?

† Origlnal notice of the question was received in Hindi.